

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed December 16, 2008. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 2, 4, 6 and 12 remain pending. In particular, Applicant has amended claims 2, 4, 6 and 12, and has canceled claim 1 – 3, 5, 7 – 11 and 13 - 15. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, presented in the Office Action. As set forth above, Applicant has amended claim 12 and respectfully asserts that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action indicates that claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In this regard, Applicant has amended claim 12 and respectfully asserts that the rejection has been accommodated.

III. Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 4, 6 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Mathis* in view of *Decoste*, and that claims 7, 8, 10 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Mathis* and *Decoste*, further in view of *Kambin*. With respect to claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 14 and 15, Applicant has canceled these claims without waiver, disclaimer or prejudice and

respectfully asserts that the rejections as to these claims have been rendered moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicant traverses.

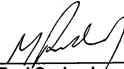
In particular, Applicant has amended independent claim 12 as suggested in the Office Action, thereby placing claim 12 in condition for allowance. All other claims in the application depend from claim 12 and, therefore, also are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. Any other statements in the Office Action that are not explicitly addressed herein are not intended to be admitted.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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